

REMAIN IN GAME UNTIL HELPLESS

Many Football Players Could Be Saved Injury if Ordered Out of Contest.

NEW YORK, November 20.—The remedy for football does not lie in the abolition of mass plays as they are now executed, nor does suitable protection for young athletes necessitate the abolition of the game itself. There is nothing seriously the matter with the game as it is played to-day, but there is something seriously the matter with the chances eager coaches permit their players to take.

A capable official with a medical training and with authority to remove from the game a man who is physically and mentally unfit to play longer should be on the field during every contest. A constant, close range observation of the men should be his only duty. He should be the safety valve for the ambitious and gritty young fellows who would rather fall helpless in their tracks than give up voluntarily.

The coaches who have the interests of the players at heart are too far away to judge always of their condition, and the judges of play are too busy with their manifold duties to see the signs of collapse in a player, as a medical man with nothing else to do, would be able to see them.

Many Ways to Be Hurt.

Football is a strenuous game, and those who play it are likely to be hurt from time to time. But there are many ways to get hurt in every outdoor sport. There is no necessity for those who want to see football abolished to harp on the danger question. Admitting that the game is not one for men who cannot stand hard knocks, we are still of the opinion that in a game between two well-trained elevens, with every player capable of clear thinking, there is no reason why anybody should be killed.

There is no reason why a well-conditioned, clear minded football player should be fatally injured in the most fiercely contested game that is cleanly played—and the college game today is clean, notwithstanding the insinuations of people who do not know what they are talking about. A football player who has competent instructors knows how to fall when tackled and how to go into a scrimmage both on offense and defense. To suppose that every scrimmage is a rough and tumble fight is ridiculous. There is plenty of "give" to the bodies of players who come together before the danger point is reached, and in the majority of cases the men know just how to receive the shock.

But the situation is entirely different when a man has befuddled brain; and it is no credit to the sport to say that players often go through a game or a part of it in such a doubtful mental condition after a hard knock on the head—which the wearing of a headgear might have prevented—that later, when their brain has cleared up again, they can remember only a small part of what transpired. While the contest was on they had only an idea that they were out on the field to oppose with all their strength in some way the men who did not wear the same colored jerseys that they wore.

Cannot Protect Himself.

A man in such a condition or even one not so bad cannot be expected to take care of himself, especially on defense. He has lost the fine balance of mind and body that is a natural protection against injury. The opposing players do not size him up as a medical man could. They only see that the road to a touchdown leads through his position and they direct a steady attack on him—the point of least resistance.

That's the way they got Byrne. The right side of the Army line had successfully withstood the Crimson attack. The Harvard general tested the line at other points and finally Byrne's position looked best for a target. Already weak, the Army man could not stand it. That the Harvard players knew Byrne is not capable of taking care of himself is not to be considered for a moment. They did know, however, that he was weak. Once again, we say, the need of a medical man close to struggling teams becomes apparent.

There can be no reason why the addition of such a man to the staff of officials should in any way interfere with the work of his associates. A competent man without any partisan feeling ought to be able to do great work in such a position. To those who pay to see football games he certainly would be a welcome addition.

COFFROTH MAY MATCH ATTELL AND DRISCOLL FOR XMAS

NEW YORK, November 20.—James Coffroth, the backer of the Colma Club, says he may arrange a fight between Abe Attell and Jim Driscoll for the featherweight championship of the world. If the men sign articles, Coffroth says they will box at Colma on Christmas Day, either for a purse or a percentage of the gate receipts. Attell has agreed to box at Coffroth's arena, but it is probable that there will be a long wrangle over the weight. Attell wants to fight at 125 pounds, while Driscoll is quoted as saying that 120 pounds inside, the English limit, must govern the result. As a compromise, it is possible that Driscoll and Attell will scale at 124 pounds, with a ringside or about three hours before the time to begin fighting.

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CATCHING DURING 1909 BELOW OTHER YEARS

Absence of Kling Badly Felt, While Criger Went Back and Crop of Young Material Did Not Develop Any Particular Stars.

The catching class of 1909, taken as a whole, was not up to that of 1908, and that of 1910, unless some real wonders are dug up during the winter. The work of the class, however, is certainly not as good as that of the previous year. The reason for this falling off in quality, excellent reasons and easily understood. No really dazzling wonders were discovered along either of the big circuits. Some of the veterans went back perceptibly in their play, and the hold-out of the best of them, all John Kling, detracted materially from the general standard of the department. Few clubs could boast of any real improvement behind the bat, and the majority were actual losers.

In the National League Pittsburgh owed a great deal of its success to the work of Gibson, who caught practically all the games, and with Kling out of the way, proved to be the real catching star of both circuits. Gibson also hit much better than ever before and was a great help with the stick. Instead of being a drawback, as was the case with many catchers.

The Cubs, per contra, lost the flag because they didn't have Kling. This marvelous performer was the sort of catcher we used to see when Ewing, Bennett, Kelly and Boyle were in their prime—a type that is almost extinct nowadays. He could backstop superbly, throw with deadly accuracy and had the genius of field leadership combined with ability in the clutch.

McGraw missed Bresnahan. McGraw tried to make up for the absence of Bresnahan by carrying a whole bunch of catchers. All did well, but none of them could half make up for Rogers. Rogers, the Indian, could hit, but was very shy of Bresnahan as a backstop.

Griffith made the long and lazy Larry McLean work hard this year, and McLean, who is really a fine catcher, was called on to do a lot of work for Philadelphia. He was no better than in 1908, and is not likely to gain any in the future. Doolin is a rattling hard worker, but falls short of the Kling class in several ways.

Roth, the second catcher, did not seem to strike his gait, and to add to the trouble, Brown's boy named Clark was tried out, with very good results. Boston had Bowerman, who is growing old, and was soon dropped after many years of big league service. Harry Smith failed to strike his proper speed and Peaches Graham was the regular backstop, but hard worker, but not a star. Brooklyn, as usual, made Bergen chief receiver. This tall fellow is a beautiful catcher, but what's the use of him? He bats more feebly than even the average pitcher, and a team with him in the line-up is playing seven men against eight or nine.

Bresnahan, who was supposed to brace up the Cardinals so greatly, had rather a bad year, his work, both back of the bat and with the stick being below his usual grade. Phelps and Bliss split up most of the work, and both did fairly, Phelps having a good year with the Phillies.

Taking the National League as a whole, the catching fell away, and the chances of improvement are not promising. Powers' Death Hurt Athletics. The death of Dr. Powers deprived the Athletics of a great catcher, a fine catcher and royal gentleman. Thomas and Livingston, who divided the catching between them, showed good class, better than had been expected of them, but not up to the very highest standard.

Curry and Donohue worked for the Boston Reds, the much-touted Spencer, fat and tired, quitting early in the struggle. Carigan not only caught well, but had a great year, and was one of the most valuable catchers in the game. Donohue did not hit hard, but caught in rather artistic fashion.

The White Sox were not as strong as usual back of the bat. Sullivan did not work up to his usual standard, and Owens, the Southern Leaguer, while promising, was crude at times. Payne was a flash of old-time form toward the last, and is counted on as a regular performer for next season.

Clark, the Wyandotte Indian, who had been counted on to catch most of the games for Cleveland, was laid up much of the time. Bemis was weak as a catcher, but showed a flash of old-time form toward the last, and is counted on as a regular performer for next season.

Schmidt, the Tigers' old standby, had to split the work this year with a new man, Stanage. While Schmidt was hardly up to his usual form, Stanage actually did better, especially at bat, in the majors than in the smaller leagues.

Highlanders Had Veterans. Stallings had his last season's catchers, Kleinow, Sweeney and Blair. Of these Kleinow caught his usual sturdy game. Blair was turned out half the season, and Sweeney showed marked improvement in hitting, though catching and throwing shakily at times.

Seppien, the Browns' young catcher, played pretty fair all the season, but is not a wonder. Criger, the wonderful veteran, who caught Cy Young these many years, seemed to lose much of his effectiveness when transferred to St. Louis.

Canillon fired most of his catchers in midseason. The work was nearly all done by Charley Street, anyway, and this backstop, who is getting better every year, did noble service for the Indiana team.

Any good young catchers to be had? If so, come through with them, they will be greatly needed in 1910, and can draw a lot of money.

KETCHEL WILL GIVE PAKKE FIRST CHANCE TO BATTLE

SAN FRANCISCO, November 20.—Stanley Ketchel declares he is considering an offer to meet Billy Pakke before a New Orleans fight club. The lightweight champion adds, however, that he will not consider any fight before New Year's Day. Ketchel intends to go hunting in Mendocino county for a couple of weeks.

"I will give Pakke a fight in the near future," said Ketchel. "I think Billy is a great boy and would put up a great fight with me. When I get ready to enter the ring again I will meet all the prominent middleweights, and Pakke will be one of the first to get a chance at my title."

KENNEDY DIPS UP SOME MORE FOREIGN GRAPPLERS

MONTREAL, QUE., November 20.—George Kennedy arrived here the other day with two wrestlers he located abroad, and who, he thinks, can beat Frank Gotch. One is a Turk named Ridjeh Penfal, and the other a Bulgarian, whose name is Hadji Chakir. Penfal, who is said to be a very big man, weighing 240 pounds, has already met some good wrestlers and defeated Mahmoud. The Bulgarian, Chakir, is not so large, weighing 185 pounds, but he is reported to be fast on his mat. Both men are looking for matches.

FIGHT WEIGHTS IN AMERICA NEED REVISION

English Classification of Boxers Is Superior and Should Be Adopted by the Leading Fight Promoters.

With boxing becoming more popular in England than ever before and with the change in the weight conditions of that country, there will be considerable conflict as to the fighters' classes between the boxers of this country and Great Britain when it comes to important matches in the future. The National Sporting Club of London, which is recognized as one of the best and oldest organizations of that kind in the world, has given the matter considerable study, with the result that a change was made in practically all the classes. It would not be a bad idea for the big clubs in America to get together and adopt the same weights as the English clubs in future. Jimmy Coffroth, of San Francisco, stated only recently that he thinks the weights as arranged by the National Sporting Club are very good and could well be followed by the clubs in this country.

In the bantam division the English weight is placed at 112 pounds, but it is now called the paperweight instead of bantam, while the real bantam is raised from 110 to 115 pounds. The featherweight limit, which is 122 pounds in this country, has been raised to 125 pounds in Great Britain, and the lightweight limit is raised from 135 to 145 pounds. The welterweight is placed at 147, while in the United States it has been shoved around from 142 to 144. The middleweight limit in England is now placed at 155

pounds, while in this country it was 150 pounds. This new weight makes it possible to bring in a light heavyweight class at 155 pounds, which is very satisfactory to many men who are too heavy for the middleweight class and too light to be really "armful" heavyweights. As soon as the Joffrey-Johnson contest is decided upon, that is, the date and location arranged, it is the intention of some of the leading promoters in this country to get together and try to revise the weights. It is a great good move, and it is to be hoped that the promoters will put it through.

NEW YORK, November 20.—Following the long-winded discussion which arose during the intercollegiate hockey season of last year as to just what the rules of the intercollegiate hockey League provide for in the event of an extra period being necessary to decide



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SILVER LINING TO CLOUD
Followers of the Ponies Will Have Plenty of Sport This Winter.

NEW YORK, November 20.—Now the season has arrived when horsemen are looking around for the best winter quarters, either for racing purposes or to "kneep up" to the stoves and tell tales of what happened and what might have happened during the year if certain things had not occurred.

There are plenty who will remain home this year, owing to the closing of Los Angeles track for this season. There will be racing, and good racing, at Oakland unless all signs fail. Mr. Anderson was at Aqueduct recently, fresh from San Francisco, and he reports that there will surely be a good meeting, even under the oral system of betting, as money is exceedingly plentiful on the coast, and racing folk are perspiring to watch the horses at Oakland.

There will be at least 500 horses on the ground on the opening day, November 26," said he. "There are about 300 there now, and at least 200 going from Salt Lake, and as many more from British Columbia and surrounding districts. There will not be a shortage of horses, though very few, if any, will go from the East."

H. D. Brown and his assistant, Mr. Lawrence, are busy getting entries for the Jacksonville stakes, and preparing for the meeting, which begins there on Thanksgiving day. The majority of horsemen are looking for Jacksonville in preference to Tampa, and it looks as if it will be the best meeting ever held in Florida. Tampa will get quite a share of the trade, as it is only a night's ride from Jacksonville, and there will be some shifting of the horses on the track and at both tracks, which always means a following of stable associates and rivalry between horsemen, which makes racing more interesting.

"Matt" Wynn will have the Juarez track in first-class condition by Thanksgiving day and quite a number of the best stables will be represented there, just across the bridge from El Paso.

There is where the better element of racing patrons will go, as many of the prominent owners are interested in the welfare of the track and will lend all aid possible to make it a success. The climate at El Paso is beautiful, similar to that which prevails in Southern California, and the racing will be conducted on substantial and lasting principles. It will be governed by the Juarez Club rules in almost every particular, except where changes for the better can be made.

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